

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

2. SUMMARY: ARMY REMAINS TENSE, BUT QUIET, AS THE KABUL LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE WAITING OUT A POSITIVE MILITARY REACTION TO THE PURGE OF THE THREE REMAINING MILITARY [ILLEG] OF THE CABINET. THEY [ILLEG] ARMORED UNITS IN KABUL APPEAR TO BE REMAINING LOYAL TO PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN. NO AIR FORCE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN NOTED THUS FAR IN THE CRISIS. THE SOVIETS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS TACTICAL POLITICAL MANEUVER. END OF SUMMARY.

2. [ILLEG] OF NOON, KABUL TIME, THE CITY OF KABUL REMAINS [ILLEG], BUT RELATIVELY QUIET. TIGHT MILITARY SECURITY IS [WORDS ILLEG] MAINTAINED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA TO THE ARG

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PALACE (HOUSE OF "[ILLEG]") AND THE BASIC AFGHANISTAN COMPLEX NEXT TO THE EMBASSY (ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY IS NOW BEING PERMITTED THROUGH THE REAR GATE). THIS TONE, CONTROLLED BY TANKS AND [ILLEG], INCLUDES THE MAIN STREET FROM PUSHTUNISTAN SQUARE NORTH-EASTWARD TOWARD THE AIRPORT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE AIRPORT IS OPEN FOR NORMAL TRAFFIC ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, NORMAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS BEING PERMITTED AND TRAFFIC IS NORMAL. ALL KEY INTERSECTIONS ARE BEING GUARDED BY ARMORED VEHICLES, HOWEVER.

4. THE EMBASSY IS STILL TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE PATTERN OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE SEPTEMBER 14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE REMAINING MILITARY OFFICERS FROM THE CABINET (KABUL 6851) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAXIMUM SECURITY PERIMETER AROUND THE REMAINING KHALQI LEADERSHIP. THAT SOMETHING WAS IN THE WIND HAD BEEN NOTED OVER THE PAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS. THE INDIAN CONSUL AT JALALABAD NOTED AROUND SEPTEMBER 12 THAT GOVERNOR MOSD. ZARIF WAS NOT THERE -- IN SPITE OF EXTENSIVE FIGHTING IN THAT REGION. HE HAD WONDERED WHETHER ZARIF HAD BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED. AS IT TURNS OUT, ZARIF HAD APPARENTLY BEEN RETURNED TO KABUL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PURGE OF THE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. THE NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN DEPUTY MINISTER IN THAT SAME MINISTRY BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED SOME MONTHS AGO TO KANDAHAR AS GOVERNOR. HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THE PAST, AND IS REGARDED AS INTELLIGENT, COMPETENT, AND PRAGMATIC. NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE FATE OF HIS PREDECESSOR MINISTER SAYED MOHD. GULABZOY.

REPORTS OF THE ARMY AND THE POLICE AFTER AUSTRIAN
COMBAT WERE TO THE EMBASSY (ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY IS NOW
THEY ARE UNDER PROTECTION OF THE ARMY). THIS TONE, CON-
SISTENT IN TONE AND TYPE, INCLUDES THE MAIN STREET FROM
INDIANISTAN SQUARE NORTH-EASTWARD TOWARD THE AIRPORT. IT IS
NOT THE CLEAR WHETHER THE AIRPORT IS OPEN FOR NORMAL TRAFFIC
REMAINING IN THE CITY, NORMAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS GOING
ON, AND TRAFFIC IS NORMAL. ALL THE INTERSECTIONS ARE
BEING CHANGED BY ARMED VEHICLES, POLICE.

4. THE EMBASSY IS STILL TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE PATTERN
OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE SEPTEMBER 14 ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE REMAINING MILITARY OFFICERS FROM
THE CAPITAL (ISABI P651) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAXI-
MUM SECURITY PERIMETER AROUND THE REMAINING REALCI LEADER-
SHIP. THAT SOMETHING WAS IN THE YING HAD BEEN NOTED OVER
THE PAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS. THE INDIAN CONSUL AT JALALABAD
NOTED AROUND SEPTEMBER 12 THAT GOVERNOR MOND, ZARIF WAS NOT
TERRA -- IN SPITE OF EXTENSIVE FIGHTING IN THAT REGION. HE
HAD CONSIDERED WHETHER ZARIF HAD BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED. AS
IT WOULD BE, ZARIF HAD APPARENTLY BEEN REFERRED TO CANCEL
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNDS OF THE MILITARY RE-ENTRY OF THE
CAPITAL. THE NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN
DETERMINED MINISTER 1. THAT NEW MINISTER BEFORE FINDING TRANS-
FERRED SOME ONES AND TO KANDAHAR AS GOVERNOR. HE HAS
BEEN FRIENDLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THE PAST, AND IS
REGARDED AS INTELLIGENT, COMESTING, AND PLACID. CO-
TENS IS LACKS ABOUT THE FACT OF HIS PREDECESSOR MINISTER
SAID MOND, GOLLEZOV.

5. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS ON SEPTEMBER 13 THAT
FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER MOND, HASLAM WATANJAR AND FRONTIER
MINISTER SHEER JAM MAZDOORYAR HAD BEEN "KIDNAPPED BY REBELS."
MAZDOORYAR WAS LAST SEEN BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AT THE
BULGARIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION ON SEPTEMBER 9, AND WATANJAR
LAST SEEN WHEN PRESIDENT MOOR MOND, FARAKI RETURNED FROM
PAVANA ON SEPTEMBER 11 (AT WHICH TIME HE WAS HANDED RIGHT
AFTER AMIN AMONG THE GREETING PARTY). THE FATE OF THE
REPLACED MINISTERS WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BY THE AFGHAN RADIO.
ALTHOUGH THEY COULD CONCEIVABLY STILL BE AT LARGE -- A
POSSIBLE REASON FOR THE TIGHT MILITARY ALERT, IT IS MORE

PROBABLE THAT THE REALCI LEADERSHIP WAS ABLE TO ARREST
THEM. A MAN AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AS WATANJAR COULD WELL
HAVE BEEN EXECUTED AFTER A QUICK INTERROGATION. SESSIONS
INDIAN DIPLOMATS NOTED HEAVY ACTIVITY AT THE SPECIAL AGRA
INTERROGATION CENTER ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY
SHORTLY BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 14.

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7. THE 1750 EXPLOSION AT THE ARG ON SEPTEMBER 14 WAS CLEARLY AN AIR BURST, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL WITNESSES. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ARTILLERY OR MORTAR ROUND FIRED AT THE ARG -- PERHAPS FOR SOME TYPE OF SIGNALLING PURPOSES. THERE WERE NO FOLLOW-UP SHOTS. ISOLATED SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HEARD AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE CITY LATER THAT AFTERNOON -- AND AGAIN ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 15. THE SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, OF THIS LATER ACTION IS STILL UNKNOWN.

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8. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS MUST NOT HAVE BEEN PRIVY TO THE SEPTEMBER 14 EVENTS BEFORE THE FACT. EMBASSY OFFICERS TRAVELLING IN THE [2 WORDS ILLEG] ROYAL HOUSING AREA--WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIETS LIVE--SHORTLY BEFORE THE [ILLEG] 1767 EXPLOSION YESTERDAY NOTED RUSSIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN BATHING AND PLAYING WITHOUT ANY OBVIOUS SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. [ILLEG] TODAY, HOWEVER, THAT AREA WAS REPORTED BY THE INDIAN [ILLEG] TO BE GUARDED BY SOVIET SOLDIERS WEARING AFGHAN UNIFORMS. EMBASSY OFFICERS TOURING THE AREA AT 1000 HOURS HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF THIS HOWEVER. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN KART-I-SE IS NOW BEING GUARDED BY TWO TANKS. THREE KHALQI MINISTERIAL LIMOUSINES, WITH GUARDS WERE OBSERVED BY A BRITISH DIPLOMAT WAITING OUTSIDE THAT EMBASSY. WE ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOW IN THE PLAY.

9. THE ABSENCE OF ANY AIR ACTIVITY FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS STRIKES US AS NOTEWORTHY. THE AIRFORCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN GROUNDED AS UNRELIABLE -- AS WAS THE CASE WHEN DEFENSE MINISTER ABDUL CADER WAS PURGED.

1. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON IMMEDIATE 5021
 2. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0722
 3. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 741
 4. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY Dacca PRIORITY 692
 5. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 8292
 6. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY JEDDA PRIORITY 392
 7. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY KARACHI PRIORITY 4373
 8. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1514
 9. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY MOROCCO PRIORITY 1997
 10. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY NUSATO PRIORITY 54
 11. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY NYW DLR PRIORITY 7352
 12. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 3275
 13. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY PESHAWAR PRIORITY 1351
 14. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY 475
 15. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON IMMEDIATE 5021
 16. AMEMB/AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON IMMEDIATE 5021

TEXT USED FOR A/DY/DOE: PARAGRAPH FOR MSSA, CINCINNATI AND DIRECTOR
USED FOR 20110

7. THE 1972 EXPLOSION AT THE APC ON SEPTEMBER 14 WAS CLEARLY AN AIR BURST, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL WITNESSES. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ARTILLERY OR MORTAR BOUND FIRE AT THE APC -- PERHAPS FOR SOME TYPE OF SIGNALLING PURPOSES. THERE WERE NO FOLLOW-UP SHOTS. ISOLATED SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HEARD AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE CITY LATER THAT AFTERNOON -- AND AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 15. THE SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, OF THIS INFORMATION IS STILL UNKNOWN.

THESE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT YET
READY TO GO TO THE EXTREMES OF A FULL-SCALE INVASION.
RECENT TRAVELLING IN THE AREA OF KABUL AND PESHAWAR
WAS SAID TO BE AVOIDING OF SOVIET MILITARY -- AND THE
1971 EXPRESSION YESTERDAY FOR A MEDICAL GROUP AND CHELSEA
AND PLAYING WITHOUT ANY OBVIOUS SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
LOCAL. HOWEVER, THAT AREA WAS REPORTED BY THE INDIAN TO
BE GUARDED BY SOVIET SOLDIERS WEARING AFGHAN UNIFORMS. EMBASSY OFFICERS
LEAVING THE AREA AT 1700 HOURS HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF THIS
HOWEVER. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN KART-I-DE IS NOW BEING GUARDED
BY TWO TANKS. THREE AFGHAN MINISTERIAL LIMOUSINES, WITH GUARDS
WERE OBSERVED BY A BRITISH DIPLOMAT WAITING OUTSIDE THAT EMBASSY.
WE ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOW IN THE PLAY.

10. THE ABSENCE OF ANY AIR ACTIVITY FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS INDICATES US AS NOTING. THE AIR FORCE MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ORDERED AS UNRELIABLE -- AS WAS THE CASE WHEN DEFENSE
MINISTER AFRUL KADER WAS KILLED.

11. COMMENT: AMIN, WHO IS IN A POSITION TO MONITOR
THE ARMED FORCES CLOSELY, MIGHT HAVE DETECTED WHAT HE PER-
CEIVED AS A PUKING WATANJAB-LED FLOT -- AND DECIDED TO RIP
IT IN THE END WITH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE. THIS ACTION HAS
COMPLETELY EXCLUDED THE MILITARY FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
-- AND THEREFORE FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AS WELL. NO
THE REMAINING MILITARY LEADERSHIP WILL REACT -- IF THEY
REACT AT ALL -- REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE EDY KABUL-AREA FORCES
APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FIRM IN AMIN'S SUPPORT THIS FAR.

12. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE SOVIETS KNEW ABOUT
AMIN'S MOVE IN ADVANCE -- OR WERE SUDDENLY FACED WITH A
FAST ACCOMPLISH. MOSCOW CERTAINLY CANNOT BE PLEASED THAT THE
KHALAIS, CONTRARY TO SOVIET ADVICE, HAVE NARROWED THEIR
POLITICAL POWER BASE FURTHER, THEREBY MAKING MORE
DIFFICULT THE CURRENT STRUGGLE FOR THE REGIME'S SURVIVAL.
IT MAY NOW OCCUR TO THE SOVIETS THAT A QUICK MILITARY COUP COULD
STABILIZE THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. THIS WOULD PERMIT
A COMPLETELY NEW CAST OF LEADERS TO TAKE OVER CONTROL --
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN MILITARY OFFICERS WHO COULD TELL THEIR
POLITICAL INCLINATIONS AND TONE DOWN THE MORE INFLAMMATORY
ASPECTS OF THE GREAT SAQR REVOLUTION. IN COMING DAYS
WE WILL BE TRYING TO IDENTIFY SOME THESE OFFICERS.